Continuity and Change

Andrea Luxton, president

Graduation is over. More than 300 new Andrews University degrees have been conferred. Graduates have scattered across North America and the world, full of hopes, dreams and plans. I couldn’t be more proud of them.

As I shook their hands and gave them their diplomas I wondered how each would take their Andrews University experience and translate it into their new environment. Would there be a Calvin Rock amongst them, to whom we gave an honorary doctorate, who would be a statesman or stateswoman in the church, being a role model representing hope and integrity where there may be despair or injustice. Or would there be a Wilce Cooke, Benton Harbor resident, civic and community leader and nurse (an individual we also honored) who can show a community how to believe in itself and give compassionately and generously through one’s own life. Or maybe there was a Lars Gustavsson walking across the stage (our third honorary doctorate recipient), someone who has spent his life helping individuals and governments around the world build capacity to make the world a better place.

So many of our graduates have already shown their heart for just such futures by their commitments of faith and attitudes of service and compassion while they were students. Many have chosen careers that will take them to the frontline of ministry and community leadership. As they stood to recognize three of their midst who had sadly died before they reached graduation, and as they applauded the success of their peers who they know had reached this graduation through times of significant challenge, I knew that our future ahead as a church, as a University, was in good hands for their hearts speak to the values Andrews holds important.

Of course, these leaders of tomorrow will not do it the way we have done. We have taught them to think for themselves and be themselves. They will innovate and create new possibilities. They will challenge us and see futures we have not yet imagined. That change is necessary. But there will also be continuity. Continuity of belief in the gospel and commitment to leading by following the Word of God. Continuity in a determination to bring positive change to their communities through equity, compassion and care. Continuity in living hope, sharing joy and embracing love as Christians and Seventh-day Adventist professionals.

Andrews University has introduced a new tagline, “World Changers Made Here.” I think we just celebrated 300-plus individuals who will prove that true: in their way, with their unique talents and in God’s time.

Welcome to all our new alumni!
17  "Eternal Morn"
Calvin Rock, retired general vice president of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, was the Baccalaureate speaker for spring 2018 graduation. This excerpt of his presentation will inspire and challenge you.

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by Jeff Boyd
A daily weather forecast for space may not be as far off as we think.

22  The Next Chapter, Storyline Four
by Andrea Luxton
Continuation of the storylines from the 2017–2022 strategic plan features providing a student environment that makes the Andrews University choice irresistible.

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On the cover, L–R: Jungah Seo, Joshua Seo, brothers Daniel Jeon and Paul Jeon, Jonathan Park. Pastor Joshua Seo and Jungah Seo serve at Chicago Unity SDA Church, Daniel serves as the associate pastor of Dalton SDA Church, Paul serves as the associate pastor of Riverside Korean SDA church, Jonathan Park serves as the executive secretary of the Southeastern California Conference.

Photo credit: GradImages (www.gradimages.com)
Don’t forget to write

Letters are always welcome. To ensure a range of viewpoints, we encourage letters of fewer than 300 words. Letters may be edited for content, style and space.

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DON’T FORGET US

The president’s letter in the winter 2018 issue of FOCUS helped make the case for expanding one’s viewpoint while in the educational environment, to better serve as a positive contributing member of society. Lose the “earphones” and spend more time developing real connections and basing conclusions on the facts. A very positive message.

She also said that it’s very important “to us that our students leave Andrews University as Christian, Seventh-day Adventist professionals who have developed a mature identity as individuals of faith.” Of an estimated 98,000 plus alumni, I suspect that a fair number of them are non-Adventist professionals. At least I don’t believe I’m the only one.

I’m very proud of my Andrews University degree, and the most enjoyable experiences encountered with both Adventist and non-Adventist. Surely other non-Adventist graduates must feel similar.

So, although I agree with President Luxton’s general message, please don’t feel the University has failed those graduates who did not leave as Seventh-day Adventist professionals, but simply professionals with great regard for our alma mater.

Doug McKinney (BS ’72)
Congratulations to Department of Engineering & Computer Science students Darrick Horton, Eric Anderson and Justin Wiley. As part of the Michigan College Alliance team, they placed second in the 2018 Stryker Engineering Challenge!

Andrews University Physical Therapy Postprofessional Degree Program
It has been such a privilege to have Gary A. Kears, PT here with us, teaching Dry Needling—Lower Extremity. This course is designed to bridge the gap between Dry Needling theory to how this tool can be integrated into clinical practice.

Andrews University Religion Department
A few photos from the Peru study tour. Machu Picchu and Lake Titicaca. Thankful that Andrews University believes in education beyond the classroom.

StudyOnlineAU: Joakim shares what makes Andrews University online studies work for him! Learn more: www.andrews.edu/stories/. (April 9, 2018)
Andrews University’s Spring Graduation took place May 4–6, 2018, celebrating the conferral of degrees to 321 students on the platform of Pioneer Memorial Church.

The weekend began when A. Rahel Wells, assistant professor of Hebrew Bible, presented the Consecration address, “The Choice of Joy,” on Friday, May 4.

On Saturday, May 5, Calvin B. Rock, retired general vice president of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, offered the Baccalaureate address for both the 9 a.m. (graduate) and 11:45 a.m. (undergraduate) services. His presentation was titled “Eternal Morn” [see page 17 for an excerpt of his sermon]. Rock also received an honorary Doctor of Divinity for his lifelong commitment to exemplary leadership and ministry in the Seventh-day Adventist Church and his example of service to communities in need.

On Sunday, May 6, Dr. Vonda Douglas-Nikitin, member of the Andrews Board of Trustees, spoke for the 8:30 a.m. Commencement service for graduates of the School of Education and the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary. Her address was titled “The Time Is Now.”

G. Thor Thordarson, executive vice president and chief operating officer of AMITA Health, spoke for the 11 a.m. Commencement service on Sunday, May 6. His address was titled “Ultima Thule.” This service was for students graduating from the College of Arts & Sciences.

At this service, Wilce L. Cooke, former mayor of the City of Benton Harbor and 50-year healthcare professional, received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters for his lifelong commitment to leveraging his opportunities and skills to better the life and health of the community through personal engagement and service. In 1968, when Cooke began working at Mercy Center, which later became Lakeland Health, he was the only male nurse in Southwest Michigan. Since 1977, Cooke has been actively involved in the political, public and civic life of his local community and beyond, including service as mayor of Benton Harbor from 1981 to 1987 and 2004 to 2011. In 2013, he founded the Wilce L. Cooke Foundation as a way to provide healthcare scholarships to Benton Harbor area residents and enhance healthcare education and health and wellness outreach in Benton Harbor and Southwest Michigan.

Lars G. Gustavsson, international development administrator, managing partner and associate of the 4th Sector Futures Group, presented his address, “Equipped,” for the May 6 Commencement service at 2 p.m. This service was for students graduating from the School of Architecture & Interior Design, School of Business Administration, School of Distance Education & International Partnerships and School of Health Professions. Gustavsson also received an honorary Doctor of Laws for his outstanding dedication to improving the plight of the marginalized poor and those impacted by humanitarian tragedy.

Gustavsson has spent most of his professional life working in the arena of overseas development assistance. In 1998, Gustavsson began approximately 18 years of service with World Vision International. His most recent role was chief futurist and partner in the Global Office for Strategy, Collaboration and Innovation based in London, UK. Prior to this role, he held other senior management positions. Gustavsson also served with ADRA for 12 years, helping to develop, design and/or provide management support for community development and emergency relief programs in 15 lesser-developed countries. Gustavsson was the principal architect and fundraiser of the master’s degree for international development, a joint effort between ADRA International and Andrews University.
Our administration allowed us to redefine ourselves and to expand and look for new opportunities. We are enhancing degrees to better prepare graduates to meet unprecedented industry demands for Computing. It is predicted that over the next 20 years, higher education will be unable to graduate enough computing majors to meet the needs of industry,” Wolfer explains. “It’s humbling to be working with such a talented group of faculty who are mission focused and dedicated to world-class Christian education. It is very exciting to be a part of this process.”
On April 12–14, the Global Mission Center for Secular and Postmodern Studies (CSPS), in partnership with the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University, hosted the Reaching Millennial Generations conference. More than 200 individuals from every division in the world, including the Trans-European, Inter-European, South Pacific and South American Divisions journeyed to Berrien Springs for the much-anticipated event.

“There is profound spiritual emptiness, but if we change where we need to change, there is hope for the church.”

“It’s time for us to talk about Millennials and the younger generations,” said Kleber Gonçalves, CSPS director and Doctor of Ministry program director at the Seminary. “This is the future of our church, and there are so many opportunities in this new context that we live in. We need to start building bridges of communication with these generations.”

The conference featured James Emery White, author of “The Rise of the Nones” and “Meet Generation Z.” In addition, 20 plenary and breakout session presenters from around the world gathered to share their expertise, including church planters, a “digital missionary,” administrators, researchers and educators, many of whom are Millennials.

“The decision to bring younger practitioners was a major change from other conferences,” said Gonçalves. “These young people are making a difference in the world because they are passionate in what they do. People were able to see that if we have passion in our hearts to reach these generations, God will open up opportunities.”

On Thursday, A. Allan Martin, teaching pastor of Younger Generation Church and lead research facilitator for the Adventist Millennial Study done by the Barna Group, delivered the first plenary presentation explaining the sobering statistics of young adult disengagement with Adventism and why he was convicted to do research and equip churches to understand and reach young people.

James Emery White, the keynote speaker, presented one plenary session on Thursday and two on Friday. In his second plenary presentation, White focused on Generation Z, those born between 1995–2012, who comprise the largest generation in modern U.S. history.

White delineated the challenges of reaching Generation Z, the first “post-Christian” generation which he calls a “lost generation.”

“There is profound spiritual emptiness,” he said. “If we change where we need to change, there is hope for the church.”

On Sabbath morning, attendees gathered at the Howard Performing Arts Center for a plenary presentation by Roger Hernandez, the ministerial and evangelism director for the Southern Union Conference.


After the final breakout session, attendees gathered again for a panel discussion among conference presenters, moderated by conference organizer and Seminary student David Hamstra. The conversation was broadcast on Facebook Live, allowing users to comment and tweet in questions for the panel using the conference’s #rmgen hashtag.

For Gonçalves, who invested nearly two years in organizing the conference, there is one takeaway point he hopes all conference attendees have grasped.

“It’s possible to reach these generations,” he said. “There are so many opportunities if we have the passion and the vision from God. So, I hope they think to themselves, ‘I can do this. It’s possible. I can connect with them.’”

The conference was recorded by the Adventist Learning Community. Videos will be posted at csps.globalmissioncenters.org when they are available. For more information, visit millennialsglobalmission.org and follow @theCSPS on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.
Andrews Dairy to close by summer 2019

Due to a significant downturn in the dairy industry in recent years

The Andrews University Board of Trustees voted in its June 4 meeting to shift the focus of its overall Andrews University Farm operations, including a decision to formally close the Farm’s Dairy operations by summer 2019.

With this decision, the University Farm will expand its focus on the food crops grown on its 750 acres of land. The University’s Farm began operations in 1901, and its Dairy started in 1907.

This decision was made following an extensive study of the Andrews University Dairy operations and the current marketplace for dairy products. That year-long detailed analysis led to the conclusion that it was unlikely there would be any potential turns in the dairy market that would bring the Dairy operations close to a breakeven situation. This follows more than three years of significant operational losses for the Dairy. Those losses, combined with the ongoing volatility of the dairy market, suggested the continued operation of the Dairy by Andrews University was too risky to sustain within the University’s ongoing operational budgets.

“This was a difficult decision to make about a significant part of Andrews University and its history,” says Andrea Luxton, president. “However, our need to be good stewards of the resources we have and to responsibly ensure stable finances for the University has led us to this decision.

“Our state-of-the-art Dairy has attempted to thrive in an environment where there has been an overall and very significant downturn in the dairy industry in recent years. The demand for milk and milk products has fallen nationally, dairy producers have increased their herd sizes, and now large distributors, such as Walmart, plan to create their own mega-dairies. As a result, despite excellent management of our operations and expenses by our Dairy leadership, income from our Dairy has continued to drop considerably. This situation has meant very significant and real losses in our Dairy operations over the last three years, with no evidence that this will turn in a positive direction in the years to come.”

When the school first opened the Dairy in 1907, a small herd of 40 to 50 cows was milked by hand, and horse-powered machinery harvested the feed for the cattle. Over the years, the award-winning Holstein herd at the heart of the Dairy grew to more than 700 cattle. The operations were led by a full- and part-time staff of 15, with around 20 students helping to support the milking operations. With the closure of the Dairy operations in 2019, as many as four of the full-time staff will transfer to positions elsewhere in the University.

The milk produced by the Dairy is marketed by the Michigan Milk Producers Association Cooperative and, among other things, has been used to make ice cream and to help produce the artisan specialty cheeses created at Old Europe Cheese in Benton Harbor, Michigan.

The Dairy’s Holstein herd has received numerous awards over the years, including “High Herd in Milk Production” and “High Cow in Milk Production” awards from the Berrien County Herd Improvement Association.

The Dairy operations have also served as a valuable real-world academic and research resource for the University’s agriculture program and its dairy management coursework, as well as the animal husbandry concentration for the University’s Bachelor of Technology in agriculture.

Kenyan visit

Chief Justice Maraga and his wife visit campus

David Maraga, chief justice of Kenya, spoke for Kenyan Sabbath on May 19, 2018 in Garber Auditorium, Chan Shun Hall. Maraga received significant news coverage after his Supreme Court decision to overturn the results of a presidential election, a decision he pursued after sundown on Sabbath.

Pictured, left–right: Alayne Thorpe, dean, School of Graduate Studies and dean, School of Distance Education & International Partnerships, David Kenani Maraga, chief justice of Kenya, Yucabeth Nyaboke Kenani, Christon Arthur, provost
Sonscreen Film Festival awards

Andrews University graduates receive five awards

JOSHUA MARTIN AND NINA VALLADO, graduates of the Andrews University documentary film program, received five awards at the 2018 Sonscreen Film Festival held at the North American Division headquarters in Columbia, Maryland, from April 5–7.

Martin, who also studied photography, won Best Art Experimental and Best Cinematography for his film “125 Pounds.” The film explores Martin’s insecurities about his weight and the importance of getting to know the person beyond the body.

Vallado’s film “Sisterly,” a documentary about autism and sisterhood, won Best in Festival, Audience Choice and Best Documentary Short.

“We are very proud to take the top awards in what I believe was one of the strongest selections of films to ever play at the festival,” says Paul Kim, chair of the Department of Visual Art, Communication & Design and professor of documentary film & communication. “What’s notable, too, is that the cost of our students’ productions is very low. It appears that the jury is responding to our commitment to artistic merit and to our mature storytelling about things that really matter and connect with the human experience rather than the flash and sizzle of a big fancy production.”

Keith Mattingly, dean of the College of Arts & Sciences, says, “Paul Kim and company are to be congratulated for the wonderful success of Andrews University students and faculty in the Sonscreen Film Festival. The judges were nationally-recognized individuals, which makes winning the awards that much more impressive. We are thankful for Paul’s excellent leadership and the talent he shares with his students.”

This year 47 official selections from student filmmakers were screened during the three-day festival. Schools and student groups represented at the festival included Andrews University (Michigan); Hawaiian Mission Academy (Hawaii); La Sierra Academy, La Sierra University, Loma Linda Academy, Loma Linda University, Pacific Union College (California); Spencerville Adventist Academy (Maryland); Southern Adventist University (Tennessee); Southwestern Adventist University (Texas); and Walla Walla University (Washington).

Kim says, “Overall, it is remarkable to see the growth of the Adventist film community throughout North America. At the festival, I was on a panel sitting between Dan Jackson [president, North American Division] and Alex Bryant [executive secretary, North American Division], and they were very much advocating in support of the growth and maturation that is happening in Adventist media.”

We are very proud to take the top awards in what I believe was one of the strongest selections of films to ever play at the festival.”

Student awarded prestigious scholarship

Sophomore math major Mykhaylo Malakhov given Barry Goldwater Scholarship

MYKHAYLO M. MALAKHOV, a sophomore mathematics major and J.N. Andrews Honors Scholar at Andrews University, was one of 211 undergraduates to receive the Barry Goldwater Scholarship, the most prestigious national award for undergraduates who intend to pursue careers in the natural sciences, mathematics and engineering.

Scholarship recipients are awarded $7,500 per year until they graduate for use towards tuition, fees, books and housing.

Malakhov is the seventh recipient from Andrews University, with the previous scholarship going to Libby Megna (biology/math) almost a decade ago during the 2008–2009 school year.

Ryan Hayes, professor of chemistry, is the Andrews campus representative for the Goldwater scholarship. He says, “This was quite an honor to Mr. Malakhov, the Department of Mathematics, the Department of Biology and Andrews University.”

Malakhov’s primary research is with the Seabird Ecology Team, an interdisciplinary research group of mathematicians and biologists. His project focuses on investigating the effects of climate change on glaucous-winged gull populations in the Pacific Northwest.

Henson says, “Mykhaylo Malakhov is an outstanding young mathematician who also has a heart for people and for Jesus. He is a true intellectual, with strong interests in the arts, literature, philosophy and music. I enjoy discussing Dostoyevsky, bread baking, plate tectonics, piano and hiking with him. He is the kind of person who will become extremely successful and will then invest heavily in the careers of others.”

In addition to his work with the Seabird Team, Malakhov is actively involved in additional research projects and leadership positions. He plans to earn a PhD in mathematics and become a professor.

To read the full article, visit andrews.edu/agenda/49499
Joint ARC-AHSRA Conference

Featuring keynote speakers David Williams & Edwin Hernández

From May 14–19, the 5th Annual Andrews Research Conference (ARC) and 6th annual Adventist Human-Subject Researchers Association Conference (AHSRA) were held on the campus of Andrews University. This joint ARC-AHSRA conference was supported by the General Conference Office of Archives, Statistics, and Research, the North American Division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and the Andrews University Institute for Prevention of Addictions and Office of Research & Creative Scholarship.

The first of the two conferences, “Andrews Research Conference: Early Career Researchers in the Social Sciences,” was held from May 14–16. Gary Burdick, dean of research, stated, “Our goal for the Andrews Research Conference is to network young Adventist researchers from around the world as well as here in America, building relationships and partnerships that will enhance the professional careers of the participants while providing a place for them to share their research in the context of faith.”

The keynote speakers were two distinguished Andrews faculty members—Duane McBride, professor of sociology, and Curtis VanderWaal, professor of social work. McBride is also the director of the Institute for Prevention of Addictions (IPA). His areas of expertise are criminology and drug abuse. VanderWaal is also chair of the Department of Social Work and director of the Center for Community Impact Research at IPA.

Following ARC, the Adventist Human-Subject Research Association Conference was held from May 16–19 and included more than 100 registrants representing 15 countries and five continents. The theme of this year’s conference was “Our Data Makes a Difference: Transforming the Church and Community.”

The AHSRA conference featured keynote speakers David R. Williams and Edwin I. Hernández. Williams is the Florence Sprague Norman and Laura Smart Norman professor of public health at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and professor of African and African American studies and sociology at Harvard University. His keynote presentation was titled “Findings from Recent Scientific Research: Highlighting Priorities for Mission.” Edwin I. Hernández, president of Adventist University of Health Sciences, presented his keynote presentation, “Denominational Research Makes a Difference.”

VanderWaal says, “Before AHSRA was organized, the Adventist church had no way to connect researchers with projects that make a real difference to the church. We now have a network of researchers who connect regularly through an annual conference and shared projects. We attracted presenters from around the world who shared important research findings that really matter to our church.”

Two festschrift volumes were produced as a part of this conference. The first, “Promoting the Public Good: Policy in the Public Square and the Church” (Avondale Academic Press, 2018), edited by Yvonne Terry-McElrath, honors the 40+ year research career of Duane McBride, and is divided into four sections corresponding to the four major research areas of McBride’s career: Faith-based Research & Policy, Public Health Research & Policy, Government-based Research & Policy, and Social Change, Motivation & Activism. Conference presentations on Thursday were centered on these themes and featured 16 of McBride’s colleagues. These presentations were followed by a banquet in McBride’s honor [see page 15].

The second festschrift volume, “A Fresh Look at Denominational Research: Role, Impact, & Scope” (Institute of Church Ministry & AdventSource, 2018, Petr Činčala, editor) honors the 40-year research career of Roger Dudley. The Friday evening presentation and reception honored Dudley and included reflections on the six areas of church-based research where Dudley has a significant impact: Youth Life, Denominational Strategic Planning and Assessment, Religious Leadership, Congregational Life, Marriage and Family, and Politics and Public Life.

A list of the presenters and abstracts can be found in the online abstract book at this link: andrews.edu/services/research/research_events/conferences/arc/2018/2018-arc-ahsra-program-revised-.pdf
Mission trip to Puerto Rico
Witnessing resiliency and empowering mental health

Over 1,000 people in Puerto Rico learned more about mental health and how to cope after the disasters of Hurricanes Irma and Maria from the work of 20 Andrews University faculty, staff, students and an alumna. In the hurricane aftermath, the suicide rate on the island has increased by more than 400 percent.

The March 15–25 trip became a reality thanks to God’s help, eager volunteers and the financial support of the Lake Union, Something in Common Sabbath School class, and Institute for Prevention of Addictions (IPA). After many last-minute changes, the resulting team was an interdisciplinary group of students and staff from the Departments of Behavioral Sciences and Social Work, the Community & International Development program, the PhD program in counseling psychology, the MA program in clinical and mental health, and the Counseling & Testing Center (CTC).

After arriving in Puerto Rico, the team could still see areas of devastation where fences were missing, roads were detoured and streetlights were out. In fact, there were almost no working stoplights while they were there. However, those living on the island reported that the situation was improving.

Diana Mitchell, staff counselor at CTC, said, “I expected more destruction, according to the pictures and what we had been told. I was surprised and shocked by how well they have been recovering. You can see the spirit. It was wonderful to witness that.”

As they were serving, the team heard many stories of individuals and communities who had been trapped, isolated or experienced great loss of materials and shelter. Despite what had happened, these individuals were thankful for how the disaster had unified their families and communities.

Harvey Burnett, chair of the Department of Behavioral Sciences and assistant professor of psychology, summarizes the need and how the Andrews team responded to it. “Everyone was impacted, it just depends on proximity and where you’re at. Our job was more about education and normalizing their reactions, empowering them and their resilience.”

Educating victims about mental health provided an opportunity for individuals and communities to address their traumatic experiences—whether that be the loss of family or friends, the loss of property, or fear of future hurricanes.

In the end, the Andrews team was able to meet with over 1,000 people face-to-face, including government officials, social workers, nursing assistants, community members, police, first responders and emergency management. They also televised two sermons and aired on the radio twice.

Many of the people reached expressed gratitude and wondered when the team would return. “Someone would stand up and say thank you for being here. Your mere presence reminds us we are not alone. Thank you for not forgetting us,” said Melissa Ponce-Rodas, assistant professor of psychology.

The entire Andrews team expressed their willingness to go back and serve if the opportunity arose, and they are currently trying to find financial support to return.

Visit Puerto Rico Mental Health Mission Trip on Facebook to learn more and donate to the next trip.
Spring 2018 at the Howard

First column, top–bottom: Wind Symphony "No Shadow of Turning" Concert, March 2 ■ Andrews University Music Festival Concert, March 3 ■ Great Lakes Adventist Academy, March 9 ■ Symphony Orchestra Benefit Concert for Neighbor to Neighbor, March 10 ■ Pianist Chi Yong Yun, March 11 ■ Michigan SDA Band Festival, March 13

Second column, top–bottom: Jaime Jorge Benefit Concert, March 14 ■ Berrien Springs Public Schools Concert, March 19 ■ SW Michigan Honor Band Festival, March 26 ■ Easter Choral Concert, March 30 ■ "Street Scene" Opera, April 7 ■ Girls of Mercy perform at "For the Sake of the Children" Concert, April 14

Third column, top–bottom: Sunday Music Series, April 15 ■ Oakwood Aeolians, April 21 ■ Wind Symphony Spring Concert, April 22 ■ Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra with Jiji Kim, guitarist, April 29 ■ Antillean Adventist University Concert, May 12 ■ RMES Concert, May 15
Two faculty members were recognized with the prestigious J.N. Andrews Medallion at Commencement services on Sunday, May 6.

The first recipient, at the 8:30 a.m. service, was Randall W. Younker, professor of archaeology and history of antiquity and director of the PhD Biblical and ANE Archaeology program. He was recognized for his extensive leadership in and contribution to the field of archaeology.

Younker said, “I have to admit that I was completely surprised. It is particularly gratifying to be recognized by one’s colleagues especially when my work at Andrews University has been the center of my professional life for so many years. Andrews is a great university and I am proud and grateful to have been able to contribute a bit to its educational and spiritual goals.”

Younker received his BA in religion from Pacific Union College in 1975 and later an MA in teaching biology. In 1986, he joined the faculty at Andrews University. He then went on to receive an MA and PhD in Near Eastern studies from the University of Arizona in 1987 and 1997.

Since 1992, Younker has been the senior project director of the Tall Jalul excavation project in Jordan. He has also held this position in the San Miceli excavation in Salemi, Sicily, since 2014.

In 2015, he received $20,000 from the Carter Report grant for archaeology research and $10,000 from the Faith and Science grant to fund archaeology students. His dedication has been recognized with multiple awards, the most recent being the Andrews University Teacher of the Year Award in 2010.

Over the course of his career, Younker has written one scholarly book, edited 10 scholarly books, contributed to 31 scholarly books, published in 28 scholarly journals, made 35 contributions to Bible dictionary and encyclopedia articles and written seven book reviews. He has lectured and read scholarly papers on 70 different occasions.

Tiffany Summerscales, professor of physics, was presented with the medalion at the 11 a.m. service. She was recognized for her contributions to landmark scientific discoveries and her faithful dedication to teaching and mentoring students.

Summerscales said, “I was very surprised when the award was announced during graduation. I have a great deal of admiration for the faculty who have won the J.N. Andrews Medallion in the past. It is quite an honor to be a member of that group.”

“...I am proud and grateful to have been able to contribute a bit to [Andrews University's] educational and spiritual goals.”

Summerscales graduated from Andrews University with a BS in mathematics and physics, then went to Penn State University where she earned her PhD in physics in 2006. Soon after, Andrews University hired her as an assistant professor of physics, and the rest is history.

In 2016, Summerscales was one of more than 1,000 scientists who were involved in the breakthrough discovery of gravitational waves by the LIGO Scientific Collaboration, otherwise known as the Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatory. She and 22 Andrews University undergraduates represented one of the 103 institutions that were actively involved in contributing to this landmark scientific discovery that was awarded with the Nobel Prize in Physics in late 2017.

In addition to her dedication to science, Summerscales has contributed to over 120 peer reviewed journal articles and serves as an active mentor for undergraduates and J.N. Andrews Honors student researchers.

She received the College of Arts & Sciences Excellence Award in 2010, the Daniel A. Augsburger Excellence in Teaching Award in 2012 and the Siegfried H. Horn Excellence in Research & Creative Scholarship Award in 2017. She is also an active member of various honor and professional societies including Pi Mu Epsilon, Sigma Pi Sigma and the American Association of Physics Teachers.

**FAR LEFT:** Tiffany Summerscales, professor of physics

(To the Andrews Speaks podcast on iTunes or Stitcher or visit andrews.edu/agenda/48037 to listen to an interview with Tiffany about her research with LIGO)

**LEFT:** Randy Younker, professor of archaeology and history of antiquity
Festschrift presented to Duane McBride

“On Thursday evening, May 17, a Festschrift was presented to Duane McBride, research professor of sociology and director of the Institute for the Prevention of Addictions, in honor of a lifetime of policy-related research in the areas of addictions, public health, and church structure and program. A festschrift is an edited book that is written by colleagues, former students and friends in honor of a person’s academic achievements.

The Festschrift, titled “Promoting the Public Good: Policy in the Public Square and the Church,” contains 15 chapters with contributions from 49 different people, including McBride’s daughter, Alina M. Baltazar, who was both an editor and contributor. Also edited by Yvonne M. Terry-McElrath, Curtis J. VanderWaal and David J.B. Trim, the volume was published by Avondale Academic Press.

In an endorsement for the volume, Andrea Luxton, president of Andrews University, wrote, “This festschrift is important because of the deserved honor it brings to Dr. Duane McBride and because of its valuable content. Dr. McBride takes an uncompromising look at challenging church and social issues through the eyes of data. This book celebrates the integrity of his life work by doing what he has done: looking at evidence and speaking to important issues critical to our futures.”

While the Festschrift was awarded on Thursday evening, academic presentations from the authors occurred throughout that day as part of the Adventist Human-Subject Researchers Association conference. Presenters came from around the country, and all were people whom McBride had worked with at different points throughout his life.

The presentations were followed by an evening banquet where the Festschrift was presented. Curtis J. Vanderwaal, professor and chair of the Department of Social Work, began the event with a humorous appreciation that was described as both a “roast and appreciation.” In his speech VanderWaal described McBride’s wide-ranging impact as a scholar, teacher, mentor and friend, including his 22 years as chair of the Department of Behavioral Sciences.

After this amusing opening, short Festschrift tributes were given by nearly all those who had presented at the conference throughout the day.

When all the tributes were done, Galina Stele, Research and Program Evaluation Manager for the General Conference Office of Archives, Statistics, and Research (ASTR), presented a special plaque to McBride from ASTR. Terry-McElrath, lead editor, followed with the formal presentation of the Festschrift.

Although McBride provided cheerful running commentary throughout the whole program, he then stood up and acknowledged his wife, Amy, for all her support throughout the years. He also expressed how humble and honored he was to receive the Festschrift.

In recalling the event, he says, “I was very surprised by the Festschrift. I knew something was up; I figured I was getting some kind of plaque. I was given a ‘fake’ program so I did not see it coming. It was a wonderful experience and it will always be among my best life memories. I am very grateful to the many lifetime colleagues who made the event happen and who took the time to participate.”

Dr. Gary L. Hopkins, research professor & associate director for the Institute for Prevention of Addictions, nicely summarized the event and his thoughts about McBride. “The recent celebration of the career of Dr. Duane McBride was fantastic and appropriate to his efforts as a scholar, professor, researcher and administrator. Dr. McBride has been a colleague, mentor and friend to me during the 23 years we have worked together. He is truly a gifted scholar and fine Christian leader.”
Recognizing and awards forum

On Tuesday, April 24, the yearly Recognition & Awards Forum took place at the Howard Performing Arts Center. This program recognizes numerous achievements and significant contributions from both students and faculty. Scholarships and awards were given from the School of Health Professions, the School of Education, the School of Business Administration, the School of Architecture & Interior Design and the Colleges of Arts & Sciences.

After these awards were presented, various students were recognized for their leadership in multiple areas including intramurals and athletics, student employment and service with Campus Ministries.

Following this came the student choice awards which included the Undergraduate Research Mentor Awards, Teacher of the Year Award, Spirit of Andrews award, and a general recognition of student leaders.

Representing the CAS Humanities Division of the Undergraduate Research Mentor Award, was Vanessa Corredera, associate professor of English. Øystein LaBianca, professor of Behavioral Sciences and Archaeology, received the award as part of the CAS Social Sciences Division while Shandelle Henson, professor of mathematics, received the award as part of the CAS STEM Division.

Emily Carlson, director of the Undergraduate Leadership program, received the Teacher of the Year award from Jessica Yoong, president of the Andrews University Student Association.

Mejia presents research at Nutrition 2018

Modifying lifestyle factors can reduce blood pressure without medication

Researchers have demonstrated that a program aimed at helping people modify lifestyle factors such as diet and exercise is as effective as medication at reducing blood pressure. Participants in the study saw their blood pressure drop 19 points, on average, after taking part in the Weimer Institute Newstart Lifestyle program for just 14 days. Other studies have shown that a blood pressure reduction of this magnitude can cut a person’s risk of heart disease or stroke in half.

“By adapting selected lifestyle health principles, half of the people in our study achieved normal blood pressure within two weeks while avoiding the side effects and costs associated with blood pressure medications,” said research team leader M. Alfredo Mejia, associate professor of public health, nutrition and wellness. “The Newstart Lifestyle program works quickly, is inexpensive and uses a palatable diet that allows for moderate amounts of salt and healthy fats from nuts, olives, avocado and certain vegetable oils.”

Mejia presented results from this study at the American Society for Nutrition annual meeting, Nutrition 2018, held June 9–12 in Boston. The conference is a national venue for more than 3,000 top researchers, practitioners and other professionals to announce exciting research findings and explore their implications for practice and policy.

The reduction in blood pressure accomplished by the program was equivalent to what can be achieved using three half-dose standard medications for blood pressure. In addition, 93 percent of the participants were able to either reduce the dose (24 percent) or eliminate their blood pressure medications (69 percent).

People participating in the Newstart Lifestyle program follow a vegan diet, walk outside daily, drink substantial quantities of water, get adequate daily sleep and participate in optional spiritual activities. The program’s vegan diet consists of foods such as legumes, whole grains, vegetables, fruits, nuts, seeds, olives, avocados, soymilk, almond milk and whole-grain breads.

For the study, the researchers evaluated data from 117 people with high blood pressure who had participated in the Newstart Lifestyle program at the Weimer Institute for 14 days. At the end of the program, half of the participants achieved a systolic blood pressure below the recommended 120 mmHg. The program was effective at lowering blood pressure in varying types of individuals, including otherwise healthy men and women and people with diabetes or who were obese and those with high cholesterol levels.

Next, the researchers plan to test the program in more people over a longer time period to better understand its long-term effects and biological basis. They also want to determine if the program can be used to improve other health problems, such as diabetes, cardiovascular disease and obesity.
Mention is made throughout Scripture of the high walls that fenced in ancient townships and capitals. These walls were not only high, they were also thick and broad; so thick as to protect against the assault of enemies and so broad as to allow their guards to patrol on horseback and even in chariots. These guards, some mobile and some stationary, were assigned in shifts or watches. The night shifts, more dangerous than the day, were segmented as the Early Watch (beginning at sunset), the Middle Watch that followed and the third or Morning Watch that concluded at dawn.

During the long stretch of darkness, the query passed along from one station to another was, “Watchman, what of the night?” It was their way of asking, “Are you okay over there?” “Any signs of the enemy?” “Everything alright?” “Watchman, what of the night?”

The question of the inquirer, identified by Isaiah as a visitor from nearby Edom, was quite commonplace, but the “riddle-like” answer of the watchman was not. It is a statement that has challenged unlettered saints and learned scholars alike throughout the centuries. “The morning comes” suggests confidence that the worst of darkness’ dangers were past and daylight imminent; but by adding “also the night,” the watchman seems either genuinely concerned about the future or wishing to confuse the Edomite, intentionally obscure. Scripture does not provide a clear-cut interpretation of the watchman’s mysterious response, but exploration beneath the surface reveals a treasure trove of lessons critical, graduates, to all of us but especially to you now poised to leave these hallowed halls.

The first is a reminder of the reoccurring or sequential cycles of life. In this interpretation, we hear the watchman saying:

“Friend, the answer to your question, is that in just a little while, the sun’s rays will chase away the darkness; the birds sing, shopkeepers throw open their windows, the streets come alive with traffic, and the happy voices of children fill the air, ‘the morning comes’—but it will not last, for inevitably, irreversibly, unfailingly it will be followed by the darkness and dangers of frightful night.”

This cycle reminds us of the sequential offerings of life itself. It is nature’s decree that your present prowess will surely give way to the debilities of old age, that you must prepare now, in the days of your full capacity, for the coming years of diminished ability.

We who have lived our three-score years plus ten, have come to understand Solomon’s: “Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth while the evil days come not” as instruction to deferred gratification, a warning to sobriety before it is too late. We cannot tarry at high noon or hold back the eventual sunset of the years. The present morning of privilege will inexorably be followed by the night of diminished mobility and faded opportunity. The morning comes, but also, unalterably—the crippling rigors of oppressive night!”

A second window into the words of the watchman speaks not to the sequential flow of day and night but to their simultaneous existence. In

He calls me out of Seir,
“Watchman, what of the night?
Watchman, what of the night?”
And the watchman said,
“The morning, The morning comes,
and also the night.”

Isaiah 21:12–13

Eternal Morn

Spring 2018—17
this view, day and night do not follow each other but rather function concurrently. And, if you have not learned already, you will find that in a very real sense, day and night, hope and hardships do coexist in each of our lives.

We do not live in zones of either/or; we do not function with undiluted pain or unmitigated joy. Our sunniest days are often darkened by news of comrades fallen, of loved ones stricken with disease or some other disaster and by unwarranted opposition to our good intentions.

All speak to the fact that in addition to our surviving the “pestilence that walks in darkness” we must also conquer amidst the “arrows that fly by day!”

If the truth be told, the morning comes and also, (not just after) but with it—the disturbing distractions of wearisome night.

A third perspective on the watchman’s reply speaks to neither the sequential nor simultaneous but to the causative association of day and night. Such was the case with Elijah who, after boldly confronting the prophets on Mt. Carmel, fled in mortified fear, downcast and discouraged. Ellen White comments:

“But a reaction as frequently follows high faith and glorious success was pressing upon Elijah...He had been exalted to Pisgah’s top; now he was in the valley. Those standing in the forefront of the conflict... will frequently feel a reaction when the pressure is removed. Despondency may shake the most heroic faith and weaken the most steadfast will.” (Prophets & Kings, pages 161, 174)

Which is to say that all of us, young and old, raw recruits and experienced veterans, have in our DNA the tendency for letdown after buildup, depression after accession, Elijah-like “cave dwelling” after mountain-top exhilaration. The morning comes but, in its wake, ever lurks the dispiriting doubts of foreboding night.

And the causative relationship is evident in our societal arrangements as well. The intellectual paralysis that marked the Dark Ages was unlocked by the “end time” burst of knowledge foretold in Daniel 12:4. But, as surely as the misuse and abuse of the morning sun results in blistered skin and blinded eyes, so surely has the misuse and abuse of scientific light resulted in societal woe.

In this regard, the watchman’s reply is reminder of our fall from Eden itself, “The morning comes but by its abuse, the untold terrors of darkened night.”

A fourth lesson and the one that I wish to emphasize is that which adds the idea of separate fates. In this perspective the unbelieving Idumean is not inquiring in genuine concern but in snide derision of Israel’s apparent vulnerability. He is, in fact, taunting the watchman. How is it for you and your families? he asks. You, who claim to be true descendants of Abraham, how is it that you, the chosen, are so often frozen with fear of enemies without and burdened by dissensions within? Where amidst your struggles and troubles do you find evidences of your claim to prophetic identity?

And watchman, very notably, what of the host of youth annually defecting from your ranks and the phalanx of your higher education graduates who drift into anonymity; some because of belief eroded by secularism and others who demand hardwired certitude for their confidence and who, since proof is not available to faith, as one author put it, “find the very lightness of faith’s fabric too heavy a garment to wear?”

And watchman, how do you explain the lot of those believers who once sang of “the golden morning soon to burst the gloom” only to join the 2,000-year-long list of expectant saints now resting in their tombs? Tell me, trusty Watchman—what of the night of their long and lengthening slumber?

Well might we, in this vein, ask ourselves, “Indeed, Fellow Watchmen, What of the night? What of the eternal morn, the end of chronology and dawn of eternity introduced in the garden at the scene of the crime, the promise that Jesus solemnly affirmed when in human garb He vowed: ‘If I go, I will come again!'”

“The morning comes!” we stoutly respond! We believe these darkest hours but precursors of the coming dawn and we will not stop believing, hoping, longing. We would rather die with an endless hope than live with a hopeless end.

The present morning of privilege will inexorably be followed by the night of diminished mobility and faded opportunity.
on unfallen worlds gasped at the sight; it was for them the darkest of nights.

How could it be, they queried: the death of Him come to conquer death. “Watchmen, what of the night?”

And the answer? He died but He didn’t stay dead! He swallowed death but death could not swallow Him. He had come into the world all God wrapped up in humanity now, He became all humanity engulfed in transcendent divinity.

And that is not all that was reversed: death was changed from an inescapable curse to an excised malignancy, sin from an unconquerable tyrant to a defeated foe, the grave from an inescapable prison to a temporary holding ground, history from a tale of hopeless confusion to a showcase of wondrous redemption, and time from E.C., “endless chronology” to B.I., the tragic but “brief interruption” between eternity past and eternity future. We are, even now, no longer prisoners of darkness but citizens of eternal dawn.

Your diplomas, issued in a few hours, will read variously: but your deployment is the same. You are all, in biblical terminology, “watchmen”: with papers decreed by providence, authenticated by prophecy, signed with the blood of the Lamb. You are leaving, equipped and empowered to share with your clients, your patients, your students, your members, your audiences, your customers, your readers, your neighbors, your children, the good news that just ahead, beyond the dread of darkened night is the dawn of eternal morn.

I trust that event will occur in your lifetime but should it not and the sunset of old age, as it has for my generation, force thought of awakening at the trumpet’s sound, rather than “seeing the cloud the size of a man’s hand,” your citizenship will be secured in that land of fadless day where sparkles a city foursquare, with high walls of jasper and gates of pearl, whose angelic sentinels welcome the saved; where there will be no night—for Lamb of God, the Source of all Energy, the Fountain of Universal Luminance, will reign. Earth’s dark night of trials, the former things of life, will not be remembered nor brought to mind: and the Lamb whose life and death made it all possible, will be the eternal object of our unending praise. To which I say, “Even so, come Lord Jesus! Amen, Amen and Amen!”

Now I ask you, class, do you join me in this glad anticipation and in promise to share the news?

After receiving his BA in religion from Oakwood College, Calvin Rock obtained an MA in sociology from the University of Detroit and a DMin and PhD from Vanderbilt University, both in religious ethics. In his 63 years of active ministry, Rock has pastored; lectured extensively about the topics of diversity, leadership and pastoral ethics; and conducted major evangelistic campaigns internationally. Rock served for 14 years as the president of Oakwood College, now Oakwood University, then was elected to serve at the GC. In 1995, he began chairing the board of Operation Reach-Back, Inc: The Association of Black Seventh-day Adventist Professionals. Rock has also written nine books, numerous studies and a variety of magazine articles.


Douglas Morgan of Walla Walla University, a prominent Adventist historian, claims this book is “the most important book ever published on race relations in the Adventist Church.”

“Protest and Progress” presents a broad overview of the history of administrative race relations in the North American Adventist church, according to Ronald Knott, director of the Press. Rock’s primary focus in on how the church has made provision for leadership roles and employment equity among Blacks and Whites. He also candidly addresses the strongly differing opinions through the years within the Black leadership community over the best approach to progress, whether by full integration at all levels of church leadership or by what Rock terms “modified self-determinationism.”

Building on that history, Rock makes a sociological, theological and philosophical argument for the effectiveness and necessity of the current Regional conference system of mission that administers resources according to racial and cultural opportunity, “Dr. Rock’s unique contribution is not simply to make a historical argument but to give us a foundation from history for a more important theological argument based on mission and practical human relations,” Knott said. “Whether a reader agrees is, of course, an open question. What is not in question is that a genuine discussion must address Rock’s perspective.”

A major feature of the book, according to Knott, is the extensive collection of appendices, all primary source documents relevant to the historical discussion.

Craig R. Jackson, dean of the School of Allied Health Professions at Loma Linda University, said, “Dr. Rock’s book is the perfect antidote for the collective amnesia of the Seventh-day Adventist church when it comes to racism and the church’s reluctance to confront the antithesis of the gospel of Jesus Christ.”

“Protest and Progress” is available directly from Andrews University Press, Adventist Book Centers and major online retailers.

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Understanding space plasmas is the first step toward understanding the research of Jay Johnson, professor of engineering. “Eighty-five percent of the universe is unknown. Of the 15 percent that is known, 99.9 percent is plasma,” shares Johnson. Plasma is the fourth state of matter—ionized gas. For example, H2O can be a solid (ice), liquid (water), gas (steam), or plasma, meaning enough heat is added to strip the electrons, forming an ionized gas of hydrogen and oxygen ions and negative electrons. This fourth state of matter can be seen in lightning, “plasma ball” desk ornaments, and the dancing colors of the Northern Lights.

When Johnson moved to Andrews University from the Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory (PPPL) at Princeton University, he brought three substantial grants: two from NASA and one from the National Science Foundation.

The first research project is studying magnetic activity cycles in stars, commonly known as the solar cycle on our sun, where sunspot occurrence peaks every 11 years. Johnson and his team are trying to better understand what determines the length of this cycle, why the period varies for different stars, and why the magnetic pole changes and flips regularly in some stars. Is the stellar cycle affected by the rotation speed of the star, the convection or movement of plasma within the star, or other factors?

The peak of the solar cycle—where activity or the number of sunspots is greatest—is known as the solar maxima, while the opposite is the solar minima. The connection between space weather and Earth weather is not yet entirely clear, but two historical occurrences demonstrate the potential significance of space weather: the demise of the Mayan empire has been connected to a solar minima and Europe’s weather was cooler than normal during the Maunder Minima (1645-1715), an extended period of inexplicable low solar activity.

The research team consists of observational experts as well as mathematical specialists. Johnson’s role relates to developing and applying new techniques for data analysis. Using information theory, Johnson is processing the data to consider the variables at work in stellar activity. This analysis looks at the relationship between variables, determining which are merely correlated and which are actually causal. Ice cream and sunburns provide a simple example of how variables may relate. The amount of ice cream consumed and the number of sunburns are positively correlated; they both go up at the same time, the summer. They are correlated, but there is no causal relationship.

Rather, a third variable is contributing to both—increased sunlight/heat during summer months. “We have the tools to actually distinguish causes, so that’s what this project is doing, trying to determine causal relationships between potential drivers of stellar sunspots,” Johnson explains. He adds, “Ultimately, the goal is to try to understand the solar cycle and what is controlling the period, when would you expect to have periods with no activity and what causes it?”

Johnson explains the significance of this work. “If we can predict what the
solar weather will be, we can predict when grand minima will occur. And we’ve seen correlation between grand minima and Earth weather.”

The second project Johnson is working on also relates to solar activity. Although the activity level fluctuates as described above, the sun is continually driving out plasma, launched in all directions, known as the solar wind. As this plasma interacts the Earth’s magnetosphere, waves are caused along the Earth’s magnetic field. These oscillations are called Kinetic Alfvén Waves (KAW). Most of the plasma from the sun is diverted around the Earth by the magnetic field; however, KAWs make it possible for some of the plasma to be pulled into the tail of the magnetosphere on the downwind side of the planet. The plasma builds up in the tail until it is released in a substorm, a topic we will return to in Johnson’s third project.

Strong solar storms pose a significant threat to satellites and even the infrastructure of the power grid. While substorms are less powerful, they can also affect satellites. Therefore, space weather forecasters would like to be able to predict when substorms will occur as well as how strong the storms will be.

Substorms have three consistent phases: the growth phase (loading plasma in the tail), the expansion phase (ballooning instability), and the recovery phase. To better understand substorm processes, Johnson is conducting stability analysis. “We take equations that tell us how plasma changes over time. We solve these equations to find the instabilities. I’m working with researchers at University of Alaska and PPPL who have developed a code to look at the electron energization. The idea is to take the ballooning instability and look at how the electrons will behave,” Johnson explains.

Regardless of whether the ballooning is a cause of the substorm or simply a correlated event, it could prove helpful in the prediction process. This would be beneficial, Johnson says, “because if we can predict when substorms will happen, that may be useful for mitigating space weather hazards.”

“We’re looking at how the Kinetic Alfvén Waves heat the particles and cause them to move into the magnetosphere. To do this, we perform a hybrid simulation,” Johnson shares. A colleague at Auburn University performs the simulations, then Johnson and his students apply analytic theory to the simulations. “We try to understand what is going on in the simulation. One way to do this is to come up with simple models for what’s going on. We’d like to know how much heating there is, what explains the amount of energy that goes into the particles and the amount of energy that goes into the waves. And we want to calculate the rate of plasma coming into the magnetosphere.”

The third project Johnson brought to Andrews—and he has received new funding for continuing research—relates to the short-term substorms that occur fairly frequently in the magnetosphere. There are two types of solar weather events: storms and substorms. Solar storms are caused by the activity of the sun, so they are more frequent during solar maxima. However, substorms are caused by local or internal factors, where energy from the solar wind is loaded into the magnetotail and then suddenly released—reconfiguring the magnetosphere every few hours.
As we turn to our next chapter, we have chosen several lenses (core strengths) with which to approach and communicate our overarching theme (mission). The lens of Explore Intentionally identifies our commitment to finding new and relevant ways to live out our mission and to encourage students to do the same. Live Wholly portrays actively our historic commitment to holistic education (Body, Mind, Spirit) and our commitment to reinvigorating that in the lives of our current community whether through initiatives in physical, emotional or spiritual wellness. The lens of Learn Deeply is the lens of depth and quality: what we are known for and how we can continue high impact practices for our students. And our final lens of Engage Globally is part of our story DNA: it is the way of the past and the way of the future, albeit through adjusted storylines.

And so we move to those new storylines, strategies that we believe will both ensure the continuity of the rich Andrews story, as well as deepen and strengthen the story as it moves into the next chapter. Each storyline will be rooted in our overarching theme(s) and through our chosen lenses, but will in turn introduce new and engaging plots that will add color and texture to our future. These will be the central thrust of this chapter of the Andrews’ story.

Recently I went to a math awards service, recognizing the achievements of students at all levels of mathematics during this last academic year. Two young women came up to me, twin sisters. “Do you remember us?” asked one. I did. They had come to our summer Early College Experience program the year before, then entered Andrews as freshmen. I asked them how it had been, and the answer was one I want to hear every time I ask that question (and actually I often do): “It has been really good; coming to Andrews was definitely the right choice for me (us).” Just then one of the math teachers came up, saw who I was talking to and told me what amazing students they both were in statistics! The personal touch! Then just a few days later at graduation I met a parent who intro-

The Next Chapter
ANDREWS UNIVERSITY
2017–2022 Strategic Plan

by Andrea Luxton

STORYLINE FOUR:
As students have multiple options for their education, Andrews University must provide a student environment that makes the Andrews University choice irresistible.
duced herself to me and her two children: one graduating and one in his second year. A third one starting next year. She told me their story, and again, “I am so glad our children came to Andrews. They have each had the individual support they needed.”

When we wrote the 2017–18 strategic plan some thought that to say we wanted the choice of Andrews to be “irresistible” was to shoot too high. But I really like the word and it is still there! So, our fourth storyline reads: “As students have multiple options for their education, Andrews University must provide a student environment that makes the Andrews University choice irresistible.”

The choices are there. Free or cheap community college. Free four-year college in some states. The national drive to make education cheaper, more accessible geographically, more relevant. So how do we respond to the question of “Why Andrews” in this environment? How can we make the student experience such that students want to come to Andrews, want to stay, and graduate with satisfaction? That is the focus of our fourth strategic storyline and I want to share a few of our projects that are key to our plans in this five-year period.

One of our encouraging statistics in the last few years has been the increase in our retention rates: that is the students who come to Andrews in their first year and then return as second-year students. In recent years this has been a very good figure at Andrews: close to 80 percent. But then in the last two years that figure jumped to a high 87 percent. That really suggested we have been doing something right. Our unproved conclusion is that it is likely due to our increased focus on first-year students, in fact first-year students before they even come to Andrews, such as our summer experience for high school juniors and seniors. And then the introduction of a new program called Explore Andrews, particularly focused on those students that aren’t quite sure yet what they want to do with their lives. This “undecided” group is the one most likely to drop out of university but now we see them increasing ly finding their academic paths and being successful through personal attention. They are given opportunities to “explore” in an intentional way the best fit for them academically and professionally. We invite them to discover their unique life calling. With this experience we have now decided to create a LIFE center (Life Calling and Leadership, Innovation, First Experience, Explore), which will further deepen what we are already doing in Explore Andrews and our first-year experience but broaden it with connecting more intentionally to leadership and innovation initiatives.

Leadership is an area we have been engaged in for some time at Andrews University. We have graduate degrees in this area. We also have an Undergraduate Certificate in Leadership and students over the last few years have worked on some fascinating change projects as part of that certificate: projects to change the campus and to change the community. Employers are needing academically qualified and proficient graduates. However, the skills that leadership training provides unquestionably gives an edge in a competitive work environment. We are already doing some good things in this area, but by adding leadership to our LIFE center and actively exploring additional models for making leadership a more prominent part of our student opportunities, we are recognizing that leadership is never in a vacuum and is an integral part of making the Andrews University experience more relevant.

Innovation however is a newer idea to us, yet one we have decided will be critical to the future of our graduates. Whether they work in an established company or set up their own business, the ability to
“Our outstanding Honors program at the undergraduate level does much to model the best of our teaching and learning experience.”

think outside the box, to create new ideas, to work alongside individuals of other disciplines seamlessly—this is our future. We want innovation to be a key part of our planning. Right now, we are in the midst of thinking about creating spaces to drive innovation forward. We already have taught the first class in our innovation certificate. This, alongside leadership, can be a game-changer for our student experience. You will definitely hear more about both in the coming years.

So far, I have talked mainly about the undergraduate experience, although leadership and innovation certainly cross over into graduate education as well, but I want to talk specifically for a moment about graduate education. One place where Andrews University leads in graduate education is in the number of degrees it offers and the potential that gives students to seamlessly move from undergraduate to graduate education, or to take dual degrees, thus broadening their total graduate experience and employability. For example, architecture, physical therapy and speech-language pathology students move cleanly from undergraduate to graduate education, and in the last two cases qualified students can take a year less in their studies by doing this. An increasing number of students are also taking, for example, an MDiv and a second degree in communication, or community and international development, or a master’s in social work. And again, in doing that some of the time is shortened. We continue to see possibilities of growth in these two approaches to graduate education and know that already this approach has made us the place of choice for many students.

Finally, I want to mention one other critical feature of our desire to make our student experience irresistible, and that is the faith element. Whatever we do at Andrews University, it is with the Word of God and our Seventh-day Adventist convictions and values as our foundation. We have a spiritual master plan that is actively implemented on the campus. We also have a rigorous process of evaluating how we are doing with that and our deep desire is to ensure our graduates’ irresistible experience is rooted in their deepening faith and commitment to mission. Our graduates testify to the strength of our focus on faith, yet this is always a place for continued thoughtful growth. The importance of our spiritual planning calls for a separate article in another edition of FOCUS.

To conclude, if we do all these things I have mentioned above, what might we experience? I would suggest we will continue to see increased retention and completion rates of our students. I believe we will also increase our total student numbers. Indeed, I would suggest that we will become irresistible: irresistible because of our attention to each student; irresistible in ensuring that students not only have the academic understanding to succeed, but the skillset to meet the market in terms of leadership, and capacity for innovative thinking and action. And I believe that as all of this is underpinned by a firmly established set of values, founded in committed faith, not only will students find the Andrews experience irresistible but so will employers and the wider community.

This is the hope embedded in our fourth strategic initiative and storyline!

FOCUS will continue to feature articles on the additional storylines in the next two issues. View the strategic plan at andrews.edu/president/strategicplan.

1. Transform the Campus Culture through focus on faith development, wellness, diversity and inclusion.

**Storyline:** To live, work or study at Andrews University will mean active engagement in a community that is passionate about being a caring, inclusive, healthy community of faith.

2. Define the Andrews University footprint beyond the Berrien Springs campus through collaboration with church, community and higher education institutions.

**Storyline:** Andrews University, the Seventh-day Adventist Church, partner institutions and the communities they serve will be richer because of the intentional engagement and influence of the University beyond its immediate campus.

3. Position the University as a leader in teaching and learning.

**Storyline:** In a competitive environment Andrews University must be able to provide a flexible, engaging, learning environment through faculty committed to the redemptive work of education. They will use both innovative and time-honored teaching methods, using the lens of “the teacher” in advancing research and engaging with service. The result will be a transformational education experience.

4. Increase the quality and depth of the student learning experience.

**Storyline:** As students have multiple options for their education, Andrews University must provide a student environment that makes the Andrews University choice irresistible.

5. Engage in campus renewal and development to meet expectations of a campus for 2025.

**Storyline:** Students and campus guests will experience an environmentally friendly campus that expresses its values through its physical campus spaces and provides state-of-the-art facilities for education, especially where professional spaces and equipment are required.
Alumni calendar of regional events

Please register for these events at alumni.andrews.edu/rsvp and receive up-to-date information on these and other events in your area. You may also contact the Office of Alumni Services at 269-471-3591 or alumni@andrews.edu.

AUGUST

5  Summer Commencement 2018
   9 a.m.
   Pioneer Memorial Church
   Berrien Springs MI 49104

8  Chicago, Illinois Regional Event
   6 p.m.
   Adventist Medical Center
   Bolingbrook
   500 Remington Blvd
   Bolingbrook, Illinois

19  Lend-A-Hand Freshman Move-In
    9 a.m.–5 p.m.
    Lamson Hall
    Andrews University
    8585 University Blvd
    Berrien Springs, Michigan
    Sign up at alumni.andrews.edu/lend-a-hand

SEPTEMBER

27–30  Homecoming 2018
     Berrien Springs MI 49104
      More information available at alumni.andrews.edu/homecoming

OCTOBER

14  Kalamazoo, Michigan
    Regional Event
    11 a.m.
    Location is to be determined.

NOVEMBER

4  Silver Spring, Maryland
   Regional Event
   11 a.m.
   Location is to be determined.

5  New York, New York
   Regional Event
   6 p.m.
   Location is to be determined.

JANUARY 2019

13  Orlando, Florida Regional Event
    11 a.m.
    Location is to be determined.

27  Dallas–Fort Worth, Texas
    Regional Event
    11 a.m.
    Location is to be determined.

28  Phoenix, Arizona
    Regional Event
    6 p.m.
    Location is to be determined.

29  Denver, Colorado
    Regional Event
    6 p.m.
    Location is to be determined.

Who are alumni?
If you’ve graduated, attended, worked or taught at Andrews University we consider you alumni! And if you’re a parent or a potential student considering Andrews, you’re invited to be our honored guest.

LEFT–RIGHT: Lynn Gray (BS ’71), Kathy (Murphy) Connell (BS ’71), Jerry Connell (MDiv ’86), Jim Hopkins (BA ’71, MDiv ’74, MSA ’96), Verlyne (Bartlett) Starr (BA ’71)
Regional Events

Huntsville, Alabama
March 17, 2018
A group of about 65 alums came together just minutes from Oakwood University to meet with Andrews University’s president, Andrea Luxton (MA ’78), and to hear news of Andrews. In attendance were several prospective students that came prepared with questions for our president. News from Andrews was presented by the alumni director, Andriy Kharkovyy (BBA ’06, MBA ’09), after which President Luxton spoke to this vibrant group about some strategic plans and answered questions from those in attendance.

Pictured, left–right: Tracy Winfield (BS ’92), Shirley Iheanacho (BS ’68), Andrea Luxton (MA ’78), Marva Kelly

Chattanooga, Tennessee
Sunday, March 18, 2018
About 140 alums came out to have brunch with Andrews on this warm Sunday morning. Alums were able to interact for the first time with President Luxton as well as catch up on the news of Andrews through a few slides presented by Andriy Kharkovyy, alumni director. David Faehner (MA ’72), vice president for University Advancement and Audrey Castelbuono (BS ’78), associate vice president for development, and several other development staff were available to answer questions. Most Andrews University staff in attendance visited other donors and friends in the area following the event, but this was a great place to catch up and spend a few minutes looking toward the future.

Asheville, North Carolina
March 19, 2018
A group of about 80 alums came out on this warm but rainy evening in Asheville to share some good food and to meet for the first time with Andrea Luxton, Andrews University’s sixth president. Alumni Director Andriy Kharkovyy shared updates from Andrews followed by a lively discussion and Q&A between the alums and President Luxton. Niels-Erik Andreasen (MA ’65, BD ’66), president emeritus, and David Faehner, vice president for University Advancement, were on hand to answer some questions as well.

Atlanta, Georgia
March 20, 2018
This cozy venue in north Atlanta was filled with approximately 90 Andrews alumni, all from different areas of study and work. Although President Luxton was not able to attend this event personally, she sent a video greeting and spoke about the exciting things happening on campus. Alumni Director Andriy Kharkovyy shared updates from campus and some slides outlining Andrews strategic plan for the next several years. Niels Erik Andreasen, president emeritus, was in attendance and spoke with several prospective students who were interested in learning about the University. Hebe Soares (MBA ’17), senior development officer, encouraged alums to share their stories and news with the Andrews family.
Kettering, Ohio
Saturday, April 7, 2018

Nearly 100 alums met together at the beautiful and historic Moraine Farm for fellowship, delicious food, and to see pictures and hear updates about Andrews, all complimentary of the Andrews University Alumni Association and Kettering Health Network. Robert Smith (BS ’75, MA ’78) warmly welcomed those in attendance, and Fred Manchur (BA ’74) reminisced about his time at Andrews. Andriy Kharkovyy, alumni director, showed pictures and spoke of changes on campus, followed by a speech and Q & A session with President Luxton. Photo credit: Lee Ann Yahle

Denver, Colorado
April 16, 2018

A pleasant group of alums, prospective students and friends of Andrews University gathered at India’s Restaurant in Denver to network, meet President Luxton and other Andrews representatives, and hear updates about Andrews University. Chaplain Dick Stenbakken (MA ’64, BDiv ’65) gave opening prayer, and David Faehner, vice president for University Advancement, welcomed alums to the event.
Pictured, left–right: Ardis Stenbakken, Allen Beardsley (BA ’67), Mary Beardsley, Ann Louise (Jones) Diamond (BA ’68)

Kiev, Ukraine
May 25, 2018

While on an official visit representing Andrews University as a graduation speaker for the Ukrainian Institute of Arts and Sciences, President Andrea Luxton spent a Sabbath evening meeting local alums from Ukraine. About 35 alumni were in attendance as well as some individuals interested in attending Andrews. Andriy Kharkovyy, alumni director and native of Ukraine, presented news from Andrews along with some exciting things happening with distance education and new projects on campus. Luxton also answered questions and discussed some strategies for making an Andrews education a possibility for students in Ukraine.

CORRECTION: On page 28 of the 2018 winter FOCUS, the individuals in the Roseville regional event photo were misidentified. They are Elena Costa (BS ’04) and her family (husband Brad and daughter Edie). We apologize for the error.
Innovating for the Future

SAVE-THE-DATE • HOMECOMING 2018 • September 27–30

BRAND NEW
Complimentary professional growth opportunity on FRIDAY, September 28:

Tambunan Networking Lunch • Design Thinking Crash Course presented by Florida Hospital’s Innovation Lab •

BREAKOUT SESSIONS: iPhone Photography, Budgeting Hacks, Continuing Education (Physical Therapy, Nursing, Architecture)

alumni.andrews.edu/homecoming

HONOR CLASSES:
1958 • 1968 • 1978
1988 • 1993 • 1998
2008 • 2013 • 2017

ART: Drew Tetz (drewtetz.com)
1950s

Daniel A. Chaij (BS '55) is president of Sociedad Biblica Emanuel, Inc., who copyrighted the first Seventh-day Adventist Bible in Spanish. Three million copies have been sold with royalties used for scholarships for ministerial, teaching or nursing students. He serves as the U.S. representative at the Adventist Theological Seminary of Cuba and the Adventist Institute of Uruguay. He and his wife Vivian (DIP2YR '50) have two sons, Laurence (BBA '84) and Kenneth (BBA '91). Grandson Nicolas Chaij is currently attending Andrews with a 100 percent scholarship. A second grandson, Nathaniel, is planning to join him this fall.

Jim Ashlock (MA '57) has been married to Ruth Brass for two years. They live in Ooltewah, Tennessee.

Elaine (Tarr) and Duane (BA '57) Dodd recently downsized but are still involved in church and other volunteer opportunities. The highlight of 2017 was the wedding of their grandson. In August they will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary—on the same day as Elton (BA '57) and Rheeta (BA '57) Stecker.

On June 8, 2018, Bill (BA '59, MA '60, MDiv '70, PhD '83) and Sandra (DIP2YR '60) Richardson celebrated 60 years as husband and wife, plus five more years as boyfriend and girlfriend. Four of those early years were on the Andrews (EMC) campus. After Bill's first graduation in 1959, they went on to serve in the ministry in Ohio, then academy Bible teaching in Massachusetts, and college teaching at Southwestern Adventist University and Pacific Union College. They returned to Andrews in 1977 where Bill served in the religion department and Sandra served in the library and then as executive assistant in the Department of Physical Therapy. Bill served as chair of the Department of Religion & Biblical Languages for 12 years, then as dean of the College of Arts & Sciences for eight years before retiring in 2009. That was short-lived, as he returned to serve as interim provost for 2009–2010. Bill and Sandra now live near their daughter Cindy and Roy Schmidt near Jackson, Tennessee, where Bill continues to bicycle, teach SS and preach—in that order! And Millie Martin, assistant girls' dean at EMC, was right—holding hands does lead to little pink bundles. Bill and Sandra held hands right on the porch of Lamson and later produced three bundles—all of whom attended Andrews and who produced eight more of their own little bundles—three of whom also attended Andrews. Bill says, “We may not have changed the world, but Andrews and us have invested a great deal in each other.”

1960s

After retirement, Verna (former staff) and Edward (MA '62) Streeter have lived in Arizona and Tennessee. Edward served on the faculty at Andrews University from 1969–2000. Verna worked with five graduate deans at Andrews: Madgwick, Rasi, Coetzee, Williams and Davis.

Doug Anderson (BS '65) is retired from denominational work after spending 14 years at the Michigan Conference ABC, seven years at Review & Herald Publishing and 19 years at the Georgia-Cumberland Conference ABC. He and his wife Sharon (att.) have two daughters, Kari and Janelle.

Shirley C. Iheanacho (BS '68) has served the Adventist church for 34 years, 20 years as an administrative secretary/assistant to four presidents of Oakwood University, creating history in the office of the president. She spent four years as a missionary at Babcock University where her husband Morris served as head librarian at the request of the late Richard Hammill. She met her husband at Andrews and they will be celebrating their 50th class reunion at Alumni Homecoming this fall. Since retiring, Shirley and Morris have been involved in global outreach ministries with Maranatha International Volunteers. They have been married for almost 48 years.

Merlynd Nestell (BA '57), professor of earth and environmental sciences at the University of Texas at Arlington, was named an Honorary Life Member of the Permian Basin Section of the Society for Sedimentary Geology (commonly known as SEPM, the acronym for its former name, the Society of Economic Paleontologists and Mineralogists). Nestell, who is also a professor in the UTA Department of Mathematics, has authored or co-authored over 50 publications and meeting presentations. His wife, Galina Nestell, an adjunct professor in the EES Department, co-authored a number of the publications. Nestell has been a College of Science faculty member for 48 years and is one of the longest-tenured faculty members at UTA. He received a BS in mathematics from Andrews, an MA in mathematics from the University of Wisconsin in 1959 and a PhD in mathematics with a minor in geology from Oregon State University in 1966.

1970s

Gloria A. Brown (BA '70) earned an MS and PhD and became a college chemistry professor. She retired in 2011 but continues as adjunct faculty. Between semesters and during breaks, she
enjoys traveling. Last year she visited friends and family in the UK, Bahamas, Florida, Georgia and Tennessee. This year she visited Bermuda. Gloria currently lives in Hartford, Connecticut.

Lila (BS ’71) and Dennis (BA ’72) Tidwell served as missionaries to Thailand, Vietnam and India from 1974–2003 and then for the U.S. Department of State in Burma, India, Thailand and Afghanistan from 2004–2013. They have two sons, Nathan and Jeremy Ethan (BA ’02).

Antoine Maycock (BA ’72, MDiv ’75) spent his entire ministry in the territory of the South Central Conference, which covers Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi and the panhandle of Florida. He has pastored churches in all five of these territories, in approximately 11 districts and 27 churches. Antoine met his wife of 45 years, Connie (att.), at Andrews University and their daughter Ashley (BHS ’07, DPT ’09) also met her pastor husband, Bron Jacobs (MDiv ’04, DMin ’13), at Andrews. Antoine and Connie have seven grandchildren.

Dorothy E. Richards (MA ’74) earned a certificate in medical technology from the Kettering Medical Center in 1967. She worked as a medical technologist and also taught science after receiving her MA. Dorothy married a pastor in 1974 and they worked in the eastern Caribbean area, including the U.S. Virgin Islands. She retired in 2010 and currently lives in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Winston A. Richards (MDiv ’74, DMin ’87) worked as a pastor and conference department director in the areas of stewardship, communication, Spirit of Prophecy and trust services for the North Caribbean Conference. He retired in Chattanooga, Tennessee and visited Andrews University in 2016.

John Lorntz (MA ’75) earned a PhD from New York University and is CEO of Lorntz & Associates, a company that provides senior benefits services. In 2018 he ran the Jerusalem Israel Marathon. He is married to Maribel and they have two daughters, Breyette and Tarina.

Randal Weis (BS ’79) moved to North Carolina after graduation and worked in the research department at The Mother Earth News from 1979–80. He attended Loma Linda University from 1981–84, where he earned a DDS. Randall has maintained a solo dental practice in Hendersonville, North Carolina, from 1984 to the present. Daughter Brittany has a business that ships flowers worldwide called “The Faux Bouquets.” His son Michael graduated from Loma Linda University as a dentist in May 2018 and married a classmate, Amy Giroux, in June 2017. Son-in-law Justin has a doctorate in pharmacy and teaches at Loma Linda.

1980s

Althea L. McMillan (MA ’80) retired as provost of Northern Caribbean University in 2003. She spent 45 years as an educator, including two years as assistant professor in the Andrews University Department of English. Althea is currently doing professional editing and writing. Her latest work is “Definitions of Love.” She and Wendell (MBA ’80, MA ’82) have three children, Coralie, Laurel (BBA ’87) and Wendell II.

Wendell R. McMillan (MBA ’80, MA ’82) earned a PhD in church management from Walden University and served the Adventist church at different levels including conference treasurer, union treasurer (Inter-America), and union secretary. He is now retired and lives with his wife Althea (MA ’80) in Harvest, Alabama.

Sylvester Carrington (MA ’81) immediately moved to Michigan State University following graduation, where his wife, Hortense, enrolled in the MA program in reading. He began his EdS program at MSU and then returned to the Virgin Islands to continue teaching. Sylvester graduated from Loma Linda University in 1987 and has been in Chattanooga ever since. He served as principal for both church and public schools. Sylvester retired in June 2017 after 47 years in education. He is working in an adjunct position for Southern Adventist University. Sylvester has authored two books, “A Principal's Personal Journey” and “It's Your Word Against Mine.”

Jerry Thacker (EdD ’87) was recognized as Indiana Association of Public School Superintendents (IAPSS) 2017 Outstanding Educator of the Year in December 2017. Thacker received this prestigious honor for the first time in 2013. He was also named Indiana Superintendent of the Year in 2012 and received the Sagamore of the Wabash in 2014—Indiana’s highest award—from then Governor Mike Pence. He has also been recognized as Alumnus of the Year from both IUSB and Bethel College. Jerry writes, “I could not have achieved at such a high level without the outstanding education that I received at Andrews University. I will be eternally grateful to my professors, classmates, and fellow alumni for making a difference in my life.”

Edwin E. Reynolds (MA ’82, PhD ’94) taught New Testament, research and writing at AIIAS (Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies) in the Philippines. He is currently teaching New Testament and serving as graduate officer at Southern Adventist University.

Patricia Cove (MAT ’89) and her husband George celebrated their 60th anniversary in May 2018, and she has just published her fourth book.

Ruth Merkel (BA ’89) recently became a great-grandmother with the birth of Quinn Charlotte Hotelling to her grandson, Benjamin Hotelling (BSELED ’12), the son of her daughter Elaine Hotelling (BS ’83). All of Ruth’s children and grandchildren graduated from Andrews. She hopes that her great granddaughter will too!
1990s

William Hurtado (BA ’97, MAYM ’99) has been in youth ministry for 19 years. He is presently the youth pastor at the Southern Adventist University campus church. William started the website highesteducation.org to provide resources for character education and family wholeness. He and his wife Shelley (BS ’00) have two children, Selah (10) and Zander (6).

Peaches Panora Christie Essic (MAT ’97) retired this year after 20 years of teaching. She and her husband Gabe plan to do a lot of traveling. They recently returned from 11 days in Jamaica. She writes, “Every day will be an adventure from this day forward. Thanks, Andrews, for giving me a great foundation.”

Stephanie (Crider) Guster (BS ’98) recently joined the faculty at Southern Adventist University as an assistant professor in the School of Social Work. Around the same time as joining the faculty, she and her husband, James Micah Guster III, were blessed with the birth of their son, Joshua Luke.

2000s

Kirk Nugent (BSET ’02) was featured in the winter 2018 issue of Toggle (a magazine for CIO and CTO leaders) for the work he has done at Oakwood University, in Africa as a missionary and IT director, and at the General Conference.

Amiris Sabo (att.) married Daniel Sabo on August 2, 2009. They have one miracle child, Kareem, who was born at 30 weeks and weighed 2.8 lbs. Amiris postponed her career for five years while she tried to have children. She is a published author and an interpreter/translator. Daniel is from Romania so they travel to Europe frequently. She just finished translating an aviation book into Spanish and authored her own book, “From My NICU Window.” In 2005, she collaborated with the Hispanic women’s devotional book (Jardines del Alma) from the Pacific Press.

Jessie Annette López (BA ’09, MDiv/MSW ’14) is currently pastoring the FUSION church in Atlanta, Georgia, part of the Georgia-Cumberland Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

2010s

Darlene Gillett (BS ’12) moved to Knoxville, Tennessee, in 2014. She works as a labor and delivery nurse for Tenova Health System. She and her husband Derrick (BSA ’12, MArch ’13) welcomed their first child, daughter Adeline Nicole Gillet, on Dec. 28, 2017.

Emely M. Taveras (BSA ’12, MArch ’12) has been honored with the 2018 Richard L. Ford Jr. Award from AIA Richmond. The Richard L. Ford Jr. Award is considered the AIA Richmond Chapter’s highest award presented to a young architect, associate member, or intern. Since beginning her professional journey five years ago, Emely has made outstanding contributions to the profession and the industry. Emely joined Glavé & Holmes shortly after graduating from Andrews University. She has participated in numerous organizations both professional and community-oriented. She is a founding member of designVA, an organization for young professionals who share a passion for architecture and design.

Emely was awarded a scholarship to be part of the 2017 Emerging Leaders in Architecture program by AIA Virginia. She recently became a registered architect in Virginia, and is working on becoming a LEED Accredited Professional. She remains proactive and seeks out opportunities for personal and professional growth.

Robert Abdul-Karim (MDiv ’15) recently had the privilege of going on a mission trip to Puerto Rico with his church in Duluth, Georgia, and the Atlanta Adventist Academy.

After graduating from Andrews, Patricia Kardash (BS ’16) began a master’s in global community development at Southern Adventist University. During her second semester (winter 2017) the program went to an on-site rotation in Kenya. They spent six weeks on the AUA campus in Nairobi, then did an eight-week field assignment at World Vision ADP Mtito Andei. Her husband, Steve Goodwin, was able to accompany her for the whole four months. Patricia graduated from SAU in May 2018.

Adelia Oriana Marie Burton was born on June 24, 2017, to Kevin (MA ’16) and Sarah Burton (BA/BS ’13, MA ’15). The Burtons reside in Tallahassee, Florida where Kevin is pursuing a PhD in American religious history at Florida State University.
Millie Mae Urbish Youngberg (professor emerita), 91, passed to her rest on April 7, 2018 at her home in Berrien Springs, Michigan where she and her husband, John, lived for 46 years.

Millie was born on Sept. 26, 1926, in Rosenberg, Texas. At the age of 9, Millie’s parents died leaving her an orphan. Her older cousin Millie Vrubl, from Czechoslovakia, took Millie and her brother, George, to raise as her own.

After Millie finished high school, she went to Union College in Nebraska where she began a close walk with Jesus, her friend. She graduated from Pacific Union College in 1951 with a degree in elementary education. Millie continued her education with graduate studies at Boston University, Michigan State University, University of Delaware and University of Maryland, where she graduated with an EdD in 1971.

Millie was an elementary education teacher in New Mexico and Texas. She also served as an elementary schools’ supervisor in the Southern New England Conference. Millie moved from this employment to become a professor at Andrews University where she taught in the School of Education for 27 years. During her tenure, Millie was awarded the John Nevins Andrews Medallion and named professor emerita in 1999.

When Millie was in charge of the Reading Center, one of her teaching assignments was “Dynamic Reading.” It was in this course that Millie met John Youngberg in 1971. God was still leading in Millie’s life. She needed to decide if she wanted to accept the call to be the associate director of education for the General Conference located in Maryland or to marry John Youngberg (MA ‘62, MA ‘71). John and Millie exchanged wedding vows in Berrien Springs, Michigan, on Dec. 21, 1971. Her choice led them on an evangelism journey they never expected.

Millie and John founded Family Life International. They worked with Andrews University and the North American Division training and certifying family life educators from around the world for 24 years. John and Millie pioneered the field of family evangelism, teaching the good news of salvation integrated with family wellness. Millie authored or co-authored 30 books to date including, “Heart Tuning,” “Rebuilding the Family Altar,” “Marriage Commitment Seminar” and “Sabbath Celebration.”

For the past 16 retirement years, John and Millie labored with enthusiasm under deep conviction that TOTAL WELLNESS—the integration of physical, spiritual and family relational health was God’s mission for them to carry to the world. They authored a series of three small books, “Homes of Hope and Health,” along with 1,300 professionally prepared PowerPoint slides designed for small group ministry/evangelism. These materials have now been translated into at least 31 languages. John and Millie trained and certified WIN! Wellness leaders on six of the earth’s seven continents. Additionally, specific chapter topics from the three books have been reprinted for sharing with English- and Arabic-speaking Muslims.

Millie will also be remembered as a founder of the Ten Days of Prayer. For the first 10 days of January for the past 28 years the Youngbergs have opened their home for prayer.

Perhaps the most rewarding publication of John and Millie’s careers has been the authoring and publication of “Jesus—Who is He?” They worked for three years, and the dream was complete when Nathan Greene, famed painter, facilitated 19 works of art on the life of Jesus to be used in the book. A Spanish version has been published and was distributed in Cuba via an Andrews University evangelism effort. Materials and training will soon be available via the NAD Online Learning Community.

John and Millie were recipients of the Lifetime Achievement Award presented by the Health Ministries Department of the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists. They also received the Arthur and Maud Spalding Award, the highest honor of the General Conference Family Ministries Department.

Millie is survived by her husband John (MA ‘62, MA ‘71); nephew James, Rebecca Urbish and their daughter Emily, by her nephew Walter and his wife Kathy all of Rosenberg, Texas; her first son John N., his wife Ivette of Ooltewah, Tennessee and children Jennifer and Walter and his wife Kathy all of Rosenberg, Texas; her first son John N., his wife Ivette of Ooltewah, Tennessee and children Jennifer and Paul of Seattle, Washington; her second son Wesley (BS ’83), his wife Betsy of Temecula, California and children Dakota of Lincoln, Nebraska, Maddie of Walla Walla, Washington, and Katelyn of Temecula.
Grieving her loss are her parents, Phillip and Cindy Seitenstich; daughter, Kelsey Brown; sister, Tara (Brendan) Carlsen; brother, Phillip “P.I.” (Nicole) Seitenstich; boyfriend, Ivory Pratcher; her former husband, Steven Brown; her Maker, who feels the loss of each of His children; along with a numerous extended family and network of friends.

Kirsten (Olsen) LaBianca, 93, of Niles, died at Woodland Terrace on May 28, 2018.

Kirsten was born June 16, 1924, to Trygve and Olga Olsen in Kristiansand, Norway. She was the oldest of nine siblings, all of whom she outlived. After completing high school, Kirsten was employed by a Norwegian noble family taking care of their children. While working in the home of this family, Kirsten met her future husband, Olav, who was recuperating from polio in the countryside after the sparse World War II years.

They fell in love, and on August 9, 1947, Kirsten and Olav LaBianca (BA ’64, MA ’65) were married. Together Kirsten and Olav had three children. When Olav made a career change from physical therapy to the pastoral ministry, Kirsten worked alongside as a physical therapy assistant and in church work, while raising their family.

In 1962 the family left Norway, immigrating to Battle Creek, Michigan. During their career, Kirsten and Olav served as a team in church ministry in Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin and Oregon. After her children became adults and left home, Kirsten returned to college and earned her RN. She blessed many with her dedicated roles as wife, mother, physical therapy assistant, nurse, pastoral partner and friend.

Kirsten was loved for her warm, caring, patient and accepting personality. Kirsten was an expert knitter and often made complex colorwork sweaters and socks for family and friends. A regular host to guests in her home, she was renowned for baking Norwegian specialties, especially “blotkake” and “kringle,” as well as Italian lasagna for many potlucks. Even though Kirsten spent a large part of her life in the United States, she kept close contact with family and friends in Norway and enjoyed both cultures’ traditions. She and Olav loved to travel, especially to see their extended family, children and grandchildren, who all delighted in their visits.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband and all of her siblings.

Kirsten is survived by her children, Anne-Mari, Øystein (BA ’71) and his wife Asta (MA ’88), and Tormod (BA ’73) and his wife Jette (BA ’75); grandchildren, Kristina (John), Erik (BS ’01) and his wife Lisa (BS ’98, MA ’02), Sonja (Heine), Aren (BA/BA/BS ’07), Ane (Tristan), Ivan (BS ’12), and Theodor; three great-grandchildren, Leif, Luke and Villum; and many extended family members.

Gloria Michaelleen Durichek Gyure (MA ’69) of Denver, Colorado, died April 22, 2018, at the age of 73.

She was born Feb. 13, 1945, to Michael and Freda Durichek and grew up in Denver. She attended Denver Jr. Academy and Campion Academy in Loveland, Colorado and graduated in 1963. She received a BA at Union College in 1967 and an MA at Andrews University.

Gloria taught school for several years and then became a systems engineer at US West. She was an active member of Denver South Seventh-day Adventist Church in music and Sabbath School classes. She was also active with the Denver Botanic Gardens. Gloria and her husband enjoyed traveling.

She is survived by her husband Joseph, son G. Edward Rittenhouse, stepdaughters Michelle Gossage and Jean Remmers, sisters Mavis Shockey, Miriam Sparks and Cynthia Durichek, and three step-grandchildren.

Joan Shultz (former staff), 83, passed away on April 12, 2018 in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

She married her grade school sweetheart, Wesley (former faculty), and through the years they traveled the world. Joan was a devoted mother of five and dedicated volunteer who loved music and playing the piano.

She is survived by daughters, Kari & Debra (BBA ’84) Shultz and Julie (BBA ’88) (Rob) Duncan. Joan was preceded in death by her husband and sons, Kendall and Randall.

Lois Marie Strand (BA ’52, MA ’64), 88, of South Bend, Indiana, died April 12, 2018.

Lois was born in Holly, Michigan, on Dec. 2, 1929, to Pearl L. and John R. Lutz, who preceded her in death. She is survived by several cousins and close friends. She was married to Kenneth Strand (BA ’52).

Lois became a school teacher after graduating with honors with a master’s degree in education, first in Salt Lake
City, Utah, and later at Mount Lake Terrace, Washington. After his retirement he and Eva moved to Walla Walla, where he pursued many of his interests, especially in research and writing. He was a long-time member of the Village Seventh-day Adventist Church in College Place.

In May 2017, Ron lost the love of his life, Eva, after more than 65 years of marriage. He is remembered not only by his family but by a host of former students who cite the "huge influence" he had on them as "a religious person, a scientist and a human being." He was an excellent listener who wanted to truly connect with people. His wacky sense of humor and penchant for weird songs is treasured by all who knew him.

Ron is survived by his daughters, Rhonda Busby of Seattle and Amy Martin of College Place; and by his sons, Dan Busby of Umapine and David Busby of Marysville, Washington; and by nine grandchildren and five great-grandchildren; as well as two brothers, Don W. Busby of Nampa, Idaho, and Neil V. Busby, of College Place; two sisters, Rhoda Wills (BA ’69, MA ’74) of Berrien Springs, Michigan and Jeannette Johnson (BA ’65) of Sitka, Alaska.

Eleanor C. Stanhisser (att.), 100, of Berrien Springs, died March 27, 2018, at her home. Eleanor was born April 7, 1925, in Muskegon, Michigan, to Earl and Abbie Ruth (McCumber) Tuples.

In December 1945, she married Robert L. Wohlers (DIP2YR ’44). After his death in 1976, she married Dwight S. Wallack. He died in 1988 and in 2005 she married Edward N. Elmendorf III (BA ’69) of Angwin, California, and David Elmendorf (BS ’73) of Chicago, Illinois; and nieces and nephews.

Her parents, brother, Robert Tuples, and sister, Barbara (Tuples) Benson (att.) predeceased her.

Delores (Anderson) Ratcliff (BSELED ’91) died at home in Cashmere, Washington, on July 18, 2017 after a 14-month fight with brain cancer.

Delores was born in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, on May 21, 1966, to Eugene and Donna Enderson, a pureblooded Norwegian electronics engineer, and a Heinz-57 Iowa farm girl who adopted a career as a stay-at-home mom. Delores attended the church school in Cedar Rapids, and then Wisconsin Adventist Academy, graduating in 1985. Her first year of college was at Union College, in Lincoln, Nebraska, before she transferred to Andrews University, where she intended to major in dietetics. Her career plans took a marked change during the next year, 1987–88, when she taught English on Ebeye, an 80-acre island in the Kwajalein Atoll, in the Marshall Islands of the Pacific—80 acres that contained about 15,000 people. She taught kindergarten that year, fell in love with her students, and then returned to Andrews and changed her major to elementary education.


In 1994 the couple moved to Riverton, Wyoming, where Nick worked as a physical therapist, and then in 1995 to Tuscaloosa, Alabama; Delores worked at the physical therapy clinic doing billing and insurance. In 1999 they moved to Moses Lake, Washington, where she worked in the home health office, again with billing and insurance, and in 2000, they moved to Wenatchee and then Cashmere, Washington.

There, she began what she considered her “real career”—being a mom to Jared, born in 2001, and Joyanna, born in 2003. She utilized her education background when she began homeschooling Jared in 2007, and Joyanna in 2010.

Delores was an active member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. She was baptized in 1975, in Cedar Rapids, and then found a home in the Cashmere SDA church in 2000. There, she served as a Sabbath School leader and teacher to dozens of children in their younger years, and served as the church clerk for the last 10 years.

Delores is survived by her husband, Nick Ratcliff Jr. (BS ’93, MSFT ’94); children, Jared and Joyanna Ratcliff; parents, Eugene and Donna Enderson of Robins, Iowa; brother, Daniel Enderson of Castle Rock, Colorado; brother, David Enderson, of Lincoln, Nebraska; numerous uncles, aunts, cousins, nieces, one nephew, and in-laws who she equally considered to be family.

EDITOR’S NOTE: Joseph Grady Smoot’s date of death was inadvertently omitted from his obituary on page 33 of the winter 2018 issue of FOCUS. Smoot, 85, of Pittsburg, Kansas, died Friday Jan. 5, 2018 at Via Christi Village. He had been a resident since January 2015.
I have traveled a long path that was designed by a beneficent God who brought me from my island home to Emmanuel Missionary College (EMC, now Andrews University). Looking back over my almost 90 years, I can see that the college was pivotal to my career.

I was born in Panama, where my Jamaican parents were missionaries. They returned to their island home when I was 3 years old. I was homeschooled before attending high school, where I placed second in the entire island when I took the Cambridge Overseas Examination. That accomplishment provided me with a scholarship to our Adventist college, West Indian Training College (now Northern Caribbean University). I graduated from the college in 1948 and immediately began teaching math there and continued doing so for several years.

Then came another turn on my path. During a cold Michigan winter, I arrived at Emmanuel Missionary College. It was a difficult adjustment for me. I was alone and felt it, partly because of my ethnicity and partly because I had no family or friends there. I remember hearing the song “You’ll Never Walk Alone” and feeling the comforting arms of the Savior enfolding me, giving me the strength to endure in a strange environment.

Fortunately, I was assigned work/study placement early in my time at EMC, and I was placed with William Specht, a mathematics professor whom I greatly admired. To this day I credit him with having inspired me to consider pursuing a career in math and physics. I graduated from EMC in 1954 and was the first woman of color to earn a BA in mathematics from the institution. It was a great day for me. I went on to Columbia University and earned a master’s degree in education.

I married my Trinidadian college sweetheart, Neville Ottley (BA ’49, BA ’53), and we moved to Washington, D.C., where he completed medical school and his residency in general surgery. At the same time, I turned another corner with God’s leading. I joined the Math Department at Howard University and began studying for my doctorate in math/physics education at American University, graduating in 1965.

I have spent my entire professional life in education, but it is Christian education that I have been deeply interested in supporting and tried to help wherever I saw a need, contributing to our Seventh-day Adventist schools in Trinidad and Jamaica as well as here in the U.S. One project that I was really pleased to be associated with was the renovation of the men’s chapel at Northern Caribbean University into a lecture theater. The completed structure was dedicated in 2000 as the “Solomon Harriott Lecture Theater” in honor of my father.

I welcomed each opportunity to serve Adventist education—on the Board of Andrews University, on the Loma Linda University Board, as well as in Washington, D.C. schools. Adventist education builds lives. That is why I am a firm believer in it.

When I reflect on my family’s educational experience, I see a strong connection to Andrews University and to Christian education in general. I am a proud alumna of Andrews; my late husband is a graduate of Andrews; my daughter Dawn Ottley Nelson Barnes received her BA in 1983 from Andrews; Dawn’s husband, Leroy, attended in the early 1980s; their son Avery attended in the 2000s; my granddaughter Maya Nelson is a current student at Andrews. My son Mark Ottley attended La Sierra University and my grandson Jeremy Ottley attended Southern Adventist University. We are a family devoted to Adventist Christian education.

My heavenly Father has guided my path from my earliest days until now. That He allowed me to pass through the halls of Andrews University is one of His special blessings. May Andrews continue to shape lives for time and eternity.

Esther Harriott Ottley (BA ’54) is pictured to the left as a young student and a professor at Howard University.
The photo below was taken by the Office of Campus Safety drone on Wednesday, June 13. The "footprint" of the new Wellness Center is rapidly taking shape. Visit Andrews University's home page (andrews.edu) to view the live camera and keep up with the progress.

Photo credit: Darrin Peck, Campus Safety patrol officer